THINK FALL AND WINTER WITH LANCASTER RECREATION

As the warmth and daylight of summer fades into a beautiful WNY fall, and yes, even winter, the Lancaster Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is gearing up for the change of seasons.

Our adult volleyball leagues (18 and up) will be registering in mid-September for the leagues that start in November. We have men's, women's and coed leagues playing at various schools throughout Lancaster.

Our men's choose up basketball program will start in late September on Monday evenings at the Middle School.

The ever popular youth basketball program for boys and girls will again hit the courts in early November. Ages 6 to 15 are welcomed to hit the hardwood.

What better way to keep the spirit of summer going than hopping back into the pool with LRD. We offer swim lessons for all ages starting at 6 months for a parent/toddler swim, with true learn to swim lessons starting for those 3 years and up. There is also a Friday night family swim for the families that want to spend an evening together, as well as water aerobics for those who want to keep fit via the pool.

LRD features LEAP (Lancaster Exceptional Activities Program) a program for those in the community with special needs. Featuring activities, games, crafts and swimming, this program offers a good time for all.

Santa at Westwood will be our annual holiday celebration at Westwood Park on November 29th. Come visit the Claus Family for a celebration of the season.

The Westwood Park Pavilion has some open days for rental still available. A holiday party at Westwood is an easy way to chase the Winter Blues away. And speaking of Winter Blues, our annual celebration of the end of winter is held each March at the pavilion.

Westwood Park is open all winter long for your winter activities. Whether it's cross country skiing, or a walk on our plowed trails, nothing beats the fresh air on a crisp fall or winter day. Or before the snow flies, just sit by the lake at Westwood, read a book, throw a fishing line in, or take a slow bike ride through the park.

For a wonderful experience, take a walk, jog, or a bike ride on the Heritage Trail, and enjoys the beauty of the fall as you move along the 4 mile paved trail. It starts at Walter Winter Drive and ends at Town Line Rd, and is a highlight of our park's system.

Fall also sees the youth leagues making full use of the parks. Lancaster Depew Soccer plays its house league games at Westwood Park on Saturdays, while Lancaster Jr Football is over at Walden Ponds for some fine little league football action also on Saturdays. Stop by and see some future High School athletes in action.

The Lancaster Striders running club will be holding a quarter marathon on Saturday October 31st, starting and ending in Westwood Park.

Youth wrestling is back on the docket later in the year. This "learn to" program gives youths an opportunity to learn the basics of a sport that dates back to ancient times.

For information on any of the above events or programs, contact the Recreation Office at 684-3320, go to our official site on the Town of Lancaster website (www.lancasterny.gov) under Rereation, or see us on Facebook under Town of Lancaster Parks, Recreation and Forestry. We thank you for your interest in LRD, and look forward to spending some time in the future with you....